

Inclusive Practices

Warrick County School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE the Warrick County School Corporation located in Southern Indiana. We are a rural/suburban community consisting of 17 schools (two high schools, one junior/senior high, three middle schools, ten elementary schools, and one alternative school). Our total enrollment is 10,143 students.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES Warrick County has approximately 62,000 people. The corporation is comprised of a 29% free and reduced status. Although 89% of our students are Caucasian, we have 265 ESL students speaking 35 different languages. The corporation has approximately 1300 students receiving services from special education teachers.

OUR STAFF consists of 592 teachers dedicated to providing a learning environment that meets the needs of all students. The Special Education Department is comprised of a Special Education Director, 68 special education teachers, 13 SLPS, 7 School Psychologists, and 12 Related Service staff.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is inclusive services, supports, and programming. We pride ourselves on supporting and serving our students, including those with the most challenges, in their Least Restrictive Environment. This is facilitated through the Special Education Department's collaborative approach in working with schools and outside agencies to imbed programming in our buildings that benefit our children.

Co-teaching can be found as a special education service at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. These team teachers initially participated in external professional development. Currently, our most experienced co-teaching teams are providing internal PD to our staff. Teaching teams and administrators are able to visit these classrooms to learn more techniques and see them in action. Positive impacts are being observed from not only our students, but from our teachers as well.

"Co-teaching has not only made me a better teacher - it has made me a better person. An effective co-teacher learns to value the needs of their students and their co-teacher above their own. Every single day is not only a lesson in new instructional methods but a lesson in humility. Together we more effectively serve the academic and social needs of our students than either of us could ever do individually."

Additionally, other effective supports and services that can be found in our corporation include our special education preschool readiness program (TEACCH and STARS programs), high school peer mentor programs, and collaborative programming with outside facilities/services (ABA, Music Therapists, Psychiatrists, LAMP trainers, etc...). We have sent our staff to train with some of these providers bringing appropriate techniques back to our buildings. Consequently, our most challenging students are being served by our own staff in our corporation as opposed to needing support from residential or local day treatment facilities.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

The collaborative efforts especially between the Special Education Department and [outside facility] have been monumental in creating a new and improved alternative approach for students with behavioral issues. ~**Parent of student with Down Syndrome**

Thank you that [he] has a place to try, fail, and get back up to try again. Thank you, too, for bending with him and helping him to succeed and feel proud of himself. Thank you for the care and concern shown each and every day. He so wanted to be back in school, and he is! ~ **Parent of student with Autism returning from residential facility**

...increased collaboration has benefitted our family immensely in how we are able to approach effective treatment and therapy strategies for our son. This collaboration has been able to set up a most effective synergy between family, student, medical providers, school administrators and ABA provider... We have confidence in this innovative teamwork oriented approach. ~ **Parent of student with Autism**

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [Tad Powless](mailto:tpowless@warrick.k12.in.us)
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